

August 3, 2012

Nate Rau
The Tennessean

RE: Public Records Request

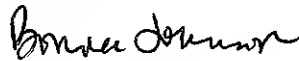
Dear Nate:

On July 20, 2012, you submitted to me a public records request in which you asked for "...every correspondence to or from Mayor Dean's office, including the mayor's staff members, regarding Great Hearts Academy." Attached you will find all correspondence that we have been able to locate that is responsive to your request. Not included, however, are the following:

1. Three email chains that involve correspondence with legal counsel from the Department of Law – excluded pursuant to Attorney/Client privilege, and
2. Four email chains, dated January 13-15, June 25, July 19, and July 19 - excluded pursuant to Deliberative Process privilege (the protection of communications between high government officials and those who advise and assist them in the performance of their duties.)

Please let me know if you have any questions about the attached documents.

Sincerely,



Bonna Johnson
Press Secretary

Tucker, Wendy (Mayor's Office)

From: Tucker, Wendy (Mayor's Office)
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 11:23 AM
To: Dean, Karl (Mayor); Hinote, Greg (Mayor's Office); bdeloache@gmail.com
Subject: GH

Just heard back from the state board's general counsel. Most board members will not be at the meeting today. The board chair will run the meeting and draft findings, etc. The board will vote on the appeal at their board meeting on July 27th.

Wendy S. Tucker
Senior Advisor on Education
Mayor's Office of Children & Youth

Tucker, Wendy (Mayor's Office)

From: Tucker, Wendy (Mayor's Office)
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 3:56 PM
To: Bill DeLoache
Subject: Re: Great Hearts letter

I'll fill you in if you miss it.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 16, 2012, at 3:55 PM, "Bill DeLoache" <bdeloache@gmail.com> wrote:

I think I'll be there. There's a slight chance I'll have to miss.

Bill

From: Tucker, Wendy (Mayor's Office) [<mailto:Wendy.Tucker@nashville.gov>]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 3:47 PM
To: 'Bill DeLoache'
Subject: RE: Great Hearts letter

I hope it helps.

I will be at the meeting tomorrow and will be bringing hard copies for each Board member.

See you there?

Wendy

From: Bill DeLoache [<mailto:bdeloache@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 3:46 PM
To: Tucker, Wendy (Mayor's Office)
Subject: RE: Great Hearts letter

Wendy,

This is terrific. Thanks so much. I don't need a hard copy.

Bill

From: Tucker, Wendy (Mayor's Office) [<mailto:Wendy.Tucker@nashville.gov>]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 1:57 PM
To: bdeloache@gmail.com
Subject: Great Hearts letter

Bill,

Here is a scanned copy of the Mayor's signed letter. Let me know if you want a hard copy. Thanks.

Wendy S. Tucker

Senior Advisor on Education
Mayor's Office of Children & Youth

Johnson, Bonna (Mayor's Office)

From: Bill DeLoache <bdeloache@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:02 PM
To: Johnson, Bonna (Mayor's Office); Tucker, Wendy (Mayor's Office); Gordon, Tam (Mayor's Office)
Subject: RE: FINAL DRAFT

Thanks for incorporating my suggestions.

Bill

From: Johnson, Bonna (Mayor's Office) [mailto:Bonna.Johnson@nashville.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 12:44 PM
To: Tucker, Wendy (Mayor's Office); Gordon, Tam (Mayor's Office); bdeloache@gmail.com
Subject: FINAL DRAFT

This is the version I plan to send to the Mayor. Please let me know if you see anything that needs to be changed. He is doing a media event about the budget at the Madison Precinct at 2:15 – so I will release this statement after that so he doesn't get charter questions at the event. Thanks everyone! Bonna

STATEMENT from the MAYOR

I am deeply disappointed that KIPP Academy's application for a second charter school was denied by the school board, even after the district's charter school review committee recommended approval. KIPP is one of the most highly-regarded national charter organizations in the country and does an outstanding job in an area of great need in Nashville – educating our at-risk children. Year after year, KIPP students have achieved great results. Last year, they performed well in mathematics and social studies, and their gains in reading scored highest among schools serving low-income students. We have made great progress as a city in our approach to giving parents more choices through charters, and this denial sends a negative message to the rest of the country as to our position on charter schools.

The school board raised legitimate issues of diversity and transportation as it relates to the application submitted by Great Hearts Academies. Diversity is an important value when it comes to educating our students, and charters need to be positioned in a way that serves the entire community. I hope Great Hearts can reasonably address those concerns in a revised application and children in Nashville can benefit from the high-level academic program for which this charter operator is known. The Great Hearts academic program is understandably attractive to many Nashville parents seeking additional educational options. I encourage Great Hearts and Metro Schools to work together to find a solution.

I'm pleased that two of the three applicants from the Charter School Incubator -- Intrepid Preparatory Charter School in Antioch and Nashville Classical Charter School in East Nashville – were approved. They will provide terrific opportunities for Nashville schoolchildren, just like the other two charter operators to come out of the Incubator, Nashville Prep and Liberty Collegiate. I encourage the third applicant from the Incubator, Purpose Preparatory Academy, to revise and resubmit its application.

My investments in education, including in the proposed budget, demonstrate my strong support for our traditional schools. At the same time, charter schools are public schools that I see as a fundamental part of reforms to improve public education – and the school board needs to make sure it is giving our families the choices they deserve. The school board needs to get it right.

Bonna Delacruz Johnson

Press Secretary
Office of Mayor Karl Dean
Metropolitan Courthouse
Nashville, TN 37201
Bonna.Johnson@nashville.gov
Office: 615-862-6000
Mobile: 615-389-3405
Fax: 615-862-6040

Johnson, Bonna (Mayor's Office)

From: Bill DeLoache <bdeloache@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:48 AM
To: Johnson, Bonna (Mayor's Office)
Cc: Tucker, Wendy (Mayor's Office); Gordon, Tam (Mayor's Office)
Subject: RE: Revised statement -- feedback still welcomed!

What about this for the GH section:

The school board raised legitimate issues of diversity and transportation as it relates to the application submitted by Great Hearts Academies. I hope Great Hearts can reasonably address those concerns in a revised application, and children in Nashville can benefit from the high level academic program for which they are known. The Great Hearts academic program is understandably attractive to many Nashville parents seeking additional educational options. I encourage Great Hearts and MNPS to work together to find a solution that enables Great Hearts to come to Nashville and serve the entire community.

And possibly add one more sentence on the Incubator applicants?

I'm pleased that two of the three applicants from the Charter School Incubator -- Intrepid Preparatory Charter School in Antioch and Nashville Classical Charter School in East Nashville -- were approved. They will provide terrific opportunities for Nashville schoolchildren, just like the other two charter operators to come out of the Incubator, Nashville Prep and Liberty Collegiate. I encourage the third applicant from the Incubator, Purpose Preparatory Academy, to revise and resubmit its application.

Thanks.

Bill

From: Johnson, Bonna (Mayor's Office) [mailto:Bonna.Johnson@nashville.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:00 AM
To: Bill DeLoache
Subject: RE: Revised statement -- feedback still welcomed!

No problem! Thanks.

Bonna Delacruz Johnson
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Office of Mayor Karl Dean
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Fax: 615-862-6040

From: Bill DeLoache [<mailto:bdeloache@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 10:59 AM
To: Johnson, Bonna (Mayor's Office)
Subject: RE: Revised statement -- feedback still welcomed!

I am trying to craft something on GH for you to consider....pls hold for a few minutes if you can. Thx!

From: Johnson, Bonna (Mayor's Office) [<mailto:Bonna.Johnson@nashville.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 10:57 AM
To: Tucker, Wendy (Mayor's Office); bdeloache@gmail.com; Gordon, Tam (Mayor's Office)
Subject: Revised statement -- feedback still welcomed!

I am deeply disappointed that KIPP Academy's application for a second charter school was denied by the school board, even after the district's charter school review committee recommended approval. KIPP is one of the most highly-regarded national charter organizations in the country and does an outstanding job in an area of great need in Nashville -- educating our at-risk children. Year after year, KIPP students have achieved great results. (RESULTS DETAILED HERE). We should not lose sight of the fact that charter schools are public schools supported with public funds. We have made great progress as a city in our approach to giving parents more choices through charters, and this action sends a negative message to the rest of the country as to our position on charter schools.

The school board raised legitimate issues of diversity and transportation as it relates to the application submitted by Great Hearts Academies, but clearly there is a lot of public support from many parents for the kinds of choices Great Hearts and other charter applicants offer. Diversity is an important value when it comes to educating our students, and while Great Hearts is a good charter operator, it needs to be positioned here in a way that serves the entire community. I would hope Great Hearts would revise its application, and the school board review it.

I'm pleased that two of the three applicants from the Charter School Incubator -- Intrepid Preparatory Charter School in Antioch and Nashville Classical Charter School in East Nashville -- were approved. They will provide terrific opportunities for Nashville schoolchildren, just like the other two charter operators to come out of the Incubator, Nashville Prep and Liberty Collegiate.

My investments in education in the past and in the proposed city budget demonstrate my strong support for our traditional schools. At the same time, charter schools are public schools that I see as a fundamental part of reforms to improve public education -- the school board needs to make sure they are giving our families the choices they deserve.

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